

Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee

FINAL MEETING MINUTES (Summary Version)

December 14, 2000

SPU Operations Control Center

Metering Building

2700 Airport Way S., Seattle

Members Present: Bruce Bachen (SPU), Tom Sibley (NMFS), Sam Wright (Washington Trout), Gwill Ging (USFWS), Frank Urabeck (NWMTA), Dave Paden (Puget Sound Anglers), Steve Foley, Ron Warren (WDFW), Bill Robinson (Trout Unlimited), Scott Brewer (King County)

Other Participants: Bill Wells, Cyndy Holtz (SPU), Dennis Dorratcague and Clint Smith (Montgomery Watson), Ed Zapel, John Hutchins, Wes Ebel (Northwest Hydraulic Consultants)

- I. **Call to Order:** Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.
- II. **Approval of agenda :** Bruce reviewed the agenda. No revisions were recommended and the agenda was approved as submitted.
- III. **Minutes review and approval for November 16, 2000 meeting:** No revisions were recommended and the minutes were approved as submitted.
- IV. **Discussion of the creation of the hatchery subcommittee:**
The Committee approved the establishment of a standing Hatchery subcommittee, whose members will be those individuals who presently sit on the Cedar River Sockeye Technical Committee. This subcommittee will assist the AFC in the oversight of the existing hatchery program and in other matters as requested.
- V. **Hatchery Program Development** – (The items as listed in the agenda were taken out of order.)
 2. **Updated schedule for design consultant selection process and major project milestones for the replacement hatchery –**
The process for selection of a design consultant to develop elements of the hatchery program and design the facilities will begin in early January with the advertisement of the notice that requests qualifications.
 3. **Progress report on contract development for monitoring and evaluation projects–**
The Committee heard a report on the status of contracting services in support of the sockeye evaluation and monitoring activities identified in the HCP, the evaluation of alternatives for broodstock collection and the evaluation of the genetic structure of sockeye in the Lake Washington basin.

1. Initial discussion of weir/trap evaluation criteria for alternative broodstock collection methods analyses–

Consultants presented an initial draft of considerations and criteria that would be used to evaluate options for broodstock collection for the Cedar River hatchery and described how they will be applying these criteria to passive trapping alternatives. The committee will be given another opportunity to comment at the next meeting.

Clarification of process associated with Interim Mitigation for coho, chinook and steelhead. (informational item not on the agenda):

SPU sent out a letter to the other Parties of the Landsburg Mitigation Agreement, requesting that they consider certain clarifications in the process of identifying interim mitigation projects. These included the role of the AFC, the beginning of the two-year limit on discussion of options and providing a clearer understanding of the Parties' options if their decisions result in partial use of the available funds.

VI. **Public Comment** - There was no public comment.

VII. **Fish Passage Project –**

1. Conceptual design confirmation for the ladder and sorting facilities at the dam, downstream passage facilities, and the fish screens

The committee was asked for further comment on technical memoranda describing the fish passage and sorting facilities at Landsburg Dam, the fish screens and modifications to improve downstream passage at the dam. No additional comments were provided and these memos will be incorporated into the draft Basis of Design Report. Committee members were invited to comment on this report by January 10, 2001.

2. Discussion of fish passage options at the aqueduct –

Consultants provided further information on two options being considered for passage at the aqueduct crossing. The rock weir design has been modified somewhat and would be subject to further modification if a specialist in this type of structure is hired to complete the design. Major considerations in the design are the potential impacts downstream of the structure, providing adequate passage at low flows and the stability of the weir under high flows. The input that has been provided by fish passage specialists in WDFW, USFWS and NMFS indicates that their preference is to choose the rock weir option over the more conventional slotted ladder option. The feasibility of the rock weir option is dependent on reaching agreement with regulatory agencies on construction methods and their impacts, since this type of project is very different from most. Construction of portions of the rock weirs must be done in flowing water. A hydraulic model will be used to evaluate risk to banks and downstream structure.

3. **Discussion with regulators (King County, Corps of Engineers, Dept. of Ecology and WDFW (invited) representatives) on the passage options at the aqueduct-**

To examine the issue of how regulatory agencies would respond to the rock weir option, representatives from King County, the Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Ecology and WDFW Habitat Division were invited to have a dialogue with the AFC. Representatives from King County Shorelines and ACOE attended the meeting and were briefed on the options and construction methods associated with each passage alternative. Several committee members explained why they believed that the rock weir option is best for fish. Feedback from the Corps and King County was supportive and acknowledged the importance of resource agency support in their response. At the end of the discussion, the AFC provided their support for the rock weir option as the preferred alternative for passage over the aqueduct.

VIII. Reports

1. Guideline development is in process and members can expect to see a draft in January.
2. Steve Foley provided a report on Cedar River counts. There are still sockeye in the river but the numbers are dropping off. Totals are currently in the 4500-5000 range for live fish. The total return will probably be in the 150,000 range, lower than anticipated. They have not seen any chinook activity for some time. Total basin escapement is a shift towards more in the north end from 1996 escapements. Their goal is 300,000 for the Cedar River. They will be conducting two or three more surveys. This has been the best year ever for surveys, and they have not missed a Tuesday.

Ron Warren provided an update on the hatchery. Egg mortality is less than 6%, which is normal. They will be hatching about 18 million eggs. They are worried about the springs recharging and are ordering pipes to install for additional water. They have lowered flows to the incubators to stay within the amount of water they currently have available. Otolith marking is going well.

IX. Plan next agenda for meeting schedule for January 18, 2001. This item was omitted due to time constraints.

X. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.